

Message Text

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SUBJ: BALKAN CONFERENCE: FINAL COMMUNIQUE AND CARAMANLIS
STATEMENT

REF A. ATHENS 943 B. ATHENS 722 C. ATHENS 95

1. THE BALKAN CONFERENCE ENDED ON FEBRUARY 5 WITH
THE ISSUANCE OF A JOINT COMMUNIQUE BRIEFLY SUMMARIZING
THE OUTCOME OF THE TALKS AND EMPHASIZING THE SPIRIT OF
COOPERATION AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING IN WHICH THEY WERE
HELD. THE PRIMARY CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE CONFERENCE
WAS THE IDENTIFICATION OF A LIST OF SUGGESTED AREAS FOR
MULTILATERAL COOPERATION FOR EXAMINATION BY THE
PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS. THE DOOR WAS LEFT OPEN
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FOR SIMILAR MEETINGS IN THE FUTURE. THE

TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE IS CONTAINED IN PARA 2.
PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS ISSUED A STATEMENT (CONTAINED IN PARA 3) DESCRIBING THE CONFERENCE AS FRUITFUL AND A CONFIRMATION THAT BALKAN COOPERATION IN A VARIETY OF SECTORS IS POSSIBLE. SEPTEL WILL FOLLOW WITH A ROUNDUP AND EVALUATION OF THE CONFERENCE. FOLLOWING TEXTS FROM SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY.

2. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE READS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE: ON THE INITIATIVE OF H.E. THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC, MR. CONSTANTINE CARAMANLIS, THE CONFERENCE OF EXPERTS FOR MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA, THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC, THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA, THE TURKISH REPUBLIC AND THE SOCIALIST FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA WAS HELD IN ATHENS FROM JANUARY 26 TO FEBRUARY 5, 1976.

THE SESSIONS WERE ATTENDED BY THE DELEGATIONS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA, HEADED BY MR. PETER BACHIKAROV, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN COMMERCE, THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC HEADED BY MR. GEORGE KONTOGHIORGHIS, UNDERSECRETARY OF COORDINATION AND PLANNING, THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA HEADED BY MR. NICOLAE STEFAN, FIRST SECRETARY OF FOREIGN COMMERCE AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, THE TURKISH REPUBLIC HEADED BY AMBASSADOR OGUZ GORKEN, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, THE SOCIALIST FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA HEADED BY MR. KAZIMIR VIDAS, UNDERSECRETARY OF THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE.

H.E. THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC, MR. CONSTANTINE CARAMANLIS, RECEIVED THE LEADERS OF THE DELEGATIONS, HAD A CORDIAL CONVERSATION WITH THEM, AND EXPRESSED THE WISH THAT THEIR WORK BE FRUITFUL.

THE PARTICIPATING DELEGATIONS, AFTER NOTING THE FACT THAT THE CONFERENCE IS INSPIRED BY THE PRINCIPLES AND PROVISIONS OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE EUROPEAN SECURITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND COOPERATION CONFERENCE, ASCERTAINED A COMMON INTEREST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT MULTILATERAL COOPERATION SHOULD NOT AFFECT IN THE LEAST THE POSSIBILITY OF BILATERAL COOPERATION.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONFERENCE AGENDA ADOPTED, A GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WAS HELD AND

THE EXPERTS PRESENTED IDEAS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THEIR DELEGATIONS ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES IN THE FOLLOWING SECTORS: AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE, ENERGY, TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AND ENVIRONMENT.

TO THIS EFFECT, THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE, ASSISTED BY THE DELEGATIONS, ESTABLISHED A LIST OF THE IDEAS, SUGGESTIONS AND PROPOSALS WHICH WERE PUT FORWARD. EACH DELEGATION WILL BRING THIS LIST TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF ITS GOVERNMENT, FOR INFORMATION OR STUDY.

THE DELEGATIONS ASCERTAINED THE USEFULNESS OF PROMOTING COOPERATION AMONG BALKAN STATES IN THE AFOREMENTIONED ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL SECTORS, AND PRESENTED NUMEROUS AND DETAILED IDEAS, SUGGESTIONS AND PROPOSALS WHICH SHOW THE BROAD SCOPE OF EXISTING POSSIBILITIES FOR ACHIEVING THAT OBJECTIVE.

IT IS UP TO THE GOVERNMENTS TO STUDY THESE IDEAS, SUGGESTIONS AND PROPOSALS, CHOOSE THOSE THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL AND ACCEPTABLE TO THEM, AND DECIDE ON THE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN WITH A VIEW TO ADOPTING THEM ON A MULTILATERAL SCALE, INCLUDING THE CONVOCAION OF THE NEXT MEETING TO THIS EFFECT.

THE WORK OF THE MEETING WAS HELD IN A SPIRIT OF GOOD NEIGHBORLINESS, COOPERATION AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

THE CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG BALKAN COUNTRIES HAS EXPRESSED ITS THANKS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC FOR THE MANNER IN WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE WORK WAS ORGANIZED, AND THE HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO DELEGATIONS DURING THEIR STAY IN GREECE. END QUOTE.

3. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' STATEMENT: QUOTE IT IS WITH PARTICULAR SATISFACTION THAT I WAS INFORMED OF THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE FIRST INTER-BALKAN MEETING IN ATHENS. THE WORK OF THE EXPERTS, AS EVIDENCED IN THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED, WAS FRUITFUL AND CONFIRMS THE POSSIBILITIES OF INTER-BALKAN COOPERATION IN VARIOUS SECTORS. BUT APART FROM THIS, AS I ALREADY DECLARED IN WELCOMING THE DELEGATES, WHAT IS OF EVEN GREATER SIGNIFICANCE IS THE SPIRIT OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND TRUST WHICH IS BEING CREATED BY THE MEETING, AND WHICH COULD HELP GRADUALLY IN FACILITATING EVEN THE BLUNTING OF BILATERAL DIFFERENCES.

THE FIRST STEP HAS ALREADY BEEN TAKEN. AND THIS
IS SIGNIFICANT IN AN AREA WHICH, THROUGH THE CENTURES,
HAS SUFFERED SO MANY ADVENTURES. I HOPE THAT THE
COURSE OF EVENTS WILL PROVE THAT THE BALKAN MEETING
MAY SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE OF PEACEFUL AND CREATIVE
COOPERATION IN A WORLD THAT FACES THE THREAT
OF BEING DELUGED BY VIOLENCE AND ANARCHY. END QUOTE.
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